

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2002, claims 4, 5 and 7 are amended, claim 6 is canceled and new claims 8-10 added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5-7 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to conform with 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The rejection to claim 6 is moot in view of its cancellation.

Claims 4, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,463,620. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 6. Claim 6, solely rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for depending from a non-existent claim, is otherwise allowable. Hence, claim 4 is now allowable. Claims 5 and 7, depending from claim 4, are similarly allowable. Claim 8, corresponding to claim 4, is similarly allowable. And, claims 9-10, depending from claim 8 are also allowable.

Claims 4-5 and 7-10 now being in condition for allowance, and indication of the same is solicited.

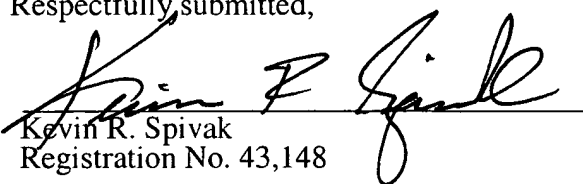
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122036900.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 6.

Please amend the claims as follows.

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4. (Amended) An apparatus for statistical multiplexing of ATM links, comprising:
a plurality of virtual connections which transmit ATM cells via a connecting line;
and

incoming connections which are assigned to a first or a second class depending on
a result of a predetermined analysis, wherein the first class is subdivided into sub-classes,
wherein the analysis is performed, in sequence, on each of the sub-classes until the incoming
connection is assigned to a sub-class or all the sub-classes have been analyzed.

5. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [1]4, wherein at least one [of the]
transmission [parameters] parameter of the connecting line or the connection are used to
determine the result of the analysis.

7. (Amended) The [method] apparatus as claimed in claim [1]4, wherein at least one
of the transmission parameters and the analysis results are stored in a network node and are
updated when an ATM link is set up and/or cleared.